

J. J. Johnson

Candidate for U.S. Senate

Part 1 of 2

J.J. Johnson - Posted: 08.24.00

On August 22, 2000, I received a call from someone at the Reno-Gazette Journal about my candidacy in the Nevada senate race. The reporter wasted almost no time questioning me about a statement I made that was reported almost three years ago - as if it was the most important issue in this year's election. It's what most northern Nevadans will be reading about by the end of this week. Since I'm really sick of hearing about it, and tired of it being brought up, I believe it can be used as a way to allow the voters of Nevada to get to know me better.

I made a comment at a meeting about a New Hampshire man who killed four people including two police officers. The quote was, "This guy should have a street named after him." Even though I have repeatedly apologized for that comment from almost the moment it was made (including that I did not advocate his criminal activity), it seems to be the primary topic of discussion in media interviews I do in Nevada. As the Reno Gazette reporter stated, "It may say a lot about your attitude toward government."

So, to the Nevada media, and more importantly, the voters: Here's my real attitude toward government, and probably why I won't be elected to the United States Senate.

I have the unfortunate habit of saying things that many other people think, but won't dare say publicly for fear of media scrutiny, or worse. For instance, earlier this year, I wrote an editorial about the State-Sponsored Thugs who kidnapped Elian Gonzalez in Miami. My exact quote was, "...those officers should have been shot."

I've never apologized for that remark.

And I've noticed that no one in the media bothers to question me about that one.

Any takers?

I am J.J. Johnson - a 38 year-old businessman from Pahrump Nevada. I am Editor & Chief of a news web site called SierraTimes.com (which by the way, gets more visitors that the Reno-Gazette Journal's web site daily.) I believe in small, and limited government. This is a sin to most in the Nevada media, or so it seems. Yes, I am that third candidate you've heard little about because rather than telling you how I'm going to spend your tax dollars, I've been out there trying to making a living so I can keep paying all those taxes (against my will) to support a government bureaucracy that most of us never voted for. This is another reason why I won't get elected.

I will only receive a few votes because unlike my opponents, I believe the most fair and effective tax cut would be a complete overhaul or dismantling of the Internal Revenue Service. The tax system can be replaced by the federal government raising revenue from imposts, duties, and excise taxes - just like the founders of this country planned. This would allow all middle-class people to keep their own money. This will of course be labeled a "radical idea," even though this country operated just fine with this tax system until the IRS came along.

I have this "extreme" conviction that Nevadans (and the local and state people we elect) are not stupid, and in fact, are smart enough to take care of themselves without the federal government

overstepping the bounds of their authority. This will scare some people, as they are led to believe that the federal government has no limit to federal authority. To those who believe such a notion, rather than coming up with some "political wonk-speak" way of saying it, I'll just say, "you're wrong."

I believe that rural ranchers and outdoor enthusiasts should sue this federal government for the policies that have led to so much devastation in the Western States. Their onslaught against the time-honored practices of Westerners (i.e., grazing, logging, fire control, etc.) and their environmentalist henchmen have created a literal "tinderbox" of flammable materials that would have been non-existent if the free-market was allowed to flourish. I believe counties and states should re-claim the land for its own uses under the 9th and 10th amendments.

This will of course, earn me some other negative label by the pundits.

I believe that the bull trout tastes like salmon and spotted owl tastes like chicken.

I believe that if the federal government has a "surplus" and Social Security is on the verge of going bankrupt, then we have no "surplus." (More on this subject later.)

I believe that few people really care about campaign finance as long as they don't have to pay for it.

Ditto on abortion.

I believe that the NAFTA, GATT and Panama Canal treaties should all be rescinded, since none of them are in the United States' best interests. As a U.S. Senator, I would not ratify any nuclear arms treaty with Russia. We want missile reduction on their end - they want hard cash. Offering them a price for each nuclear missile they own, and paying their nuclear scientists to defect is a much simpler and cheaper way of solving the problem.

I am against our military becoming a police force, and police forces becoming para-military. I feel that many veterans and former police officers are insulted by fighting against fascism and communism (as we were taught) and then watching this nation drift toward it.

I believe that my two opponents will either say, "we should enforce the gun laws that are on the books" or they'll look forward to voting for any and all gun legislation that crosses their desks. I believe that those who support gun control should not own firearms. The fact that in the last three years, at least eight oxygen thieves (a.k.a. criminals) have been offed by citizens defending their homes in Las Vegas alone justifies the people's right to keep and bear arms, period.

I believe people should be able to keep any money they are taxed for education and use the funds to send their children to the school of their choice. I believe people should be able to hire the best person for the job, and have the right to fire them if they can't cut it.

I believe in the use of Medical Marijuana. In fact, it seems that in every modern war that is fought, suing for peace is always an option - except for the war on drugs. This "war" threatens the privacy and property rights of each American, which is more of a danger than any illegal narcotic. If this nation cannot eliminate its addiction to illegal narcotics, then decriminalization of non-lethal narcotics should be considered.

These are just some of the issues that will ensure that I will not be elected in Nevada.

Here's one more: I believe Nevadans are fed up with most of what the federal government has to offer: the paperwork, the un-funded mandates, the corrupt judicial system, their endless regulations, and

worse, their arrogance.

But who really cares in Nevada since my opponents have decided that the only issues worth buying air-time for are Social Security and prescription medicine? In short, they believe that if you are under 55 and do not live in Las Vegas or Reno, then your vote really doesn't amount to much. Both parties claimed at their conventions that they want to leave no American behind.

Well, I represent those that are left behind.

It's not money that will prevent me from winning this election. It's the basic principles in which this nation was founded; the Western Spirit of Freedom to which I confess, that will send the media on a mission to silence this message.

Since there hasn't been a "lockbox" invented that a politician couldn't break into, Social Security is broke. Here's the Johnson policy on Social Security:

1) All persons now receiving Social Security should continue to receive payments until they are deceased. 2) All persons who reach the age of 55 should be given a cash payment of whatever they have paid into the SS system with interest. They can retire whenever they and their employer agree. 3) All persons under the age of 25 who enter the workforce should not have to pay any F.I.C.A. taxes and be allowed tax-free retirement accounts to start on their own. 4) Banks and other private financial institutions should be allowed to setup retirement accounts for all persons under 55 years of age with penalties for early withdrawal, and no deposit limits. 5) Any shortfalls in this program can be paid for by the bureaucracy reduction that will occur as a result of this program.

This plan represents a 30-years phase out of Social Security, and a retirement package increase for future retirees.

Deregulating the industry can reduce prescription drug costs. Each New Drug Application costs a drug company between \$300 and \$500 million, payable to the federal government. This cost is passed on to the consumer. Likewise with the airline industry, deregulation will reduce the cost. The free market (and the doctor's reputation) will insure quality.

If you dare vote for J.J. Johnson for U.S. Senate, what you just read is the message you'll be sending to Washington D.C. Even if you do care, the media won't let you care for long - all because of what you read first. So we better touch on that subject as well.

J. J. Johnson

Part 2 - "My Core Beliefs" will appear tomorrow

J. J. Johnson

Candidate for U.S. Senate

Part 2 of 2

J.J. Johnson - Posted: 08.25.00

I probably should apologize for the direct, in-your-face message you read in part one. Perhaps you were expecting a Hollywood produced, manicured, high-priced, poll-driven presentation that got pre-approved by some party's national committee.

Sorry, but that's not me. I'm just a regular guy.

And I also feel that anyone willing to spend 10 times the salary of a U.S. Senator to get elected as a U.S. Senator should be looked at with suspicion anyway. Regardless of what cute commercials you'll hear, I doubt that either of my opponents will go to Washington D.C. with Nevada's best interest in mind.

I'm just another Nevadan, a Libertarian who speaks his mind without checking with the party bosses first, (as you can tell here). Speaking my mind is probably the only way most Nevadans will ever get to know me.

You see, I was born in Buffalo, New York in 1961. I grew up in the turbulent 60's. I got to see first hand what a police state looked like. Graduated from High School in 1978, and raised in a two-parent home by my natural parents. I eventually came to Nevada for the same reason this state is growing so much, people are tired of the growing bureaucracies in their states.

What makes J.J. Johnson as qualified as the other candidates to be a U.S. Senator?

Answer: I live here.

I have no government experience whatsoever. Therefore, I wouldn't be a career politician. In fact, during my trips to Washington, I couldn't stand to be there more than 6 hours, let alone 6 years.

But all of that is irrelevant, isn't it? - All because of something I said three years ago (taken out of context.)

Here are some of the things I didn't say or do (that other politicians have:)

- I haven't bombed other countries' aspirin factories
- I've never lied under oath in front a grand jury
- I've never taken campaign money from impoverished Buddhist nuns
- I've never called anyone an "(expletive) Jew Bastard"
- I've never allowed national Security secrets to get handed over to enemy countries
- I've never had folks who raised money for my campaign hide overseas to avoid justice
- I've never exploited dead children to advance a personal agenda
- I've never falsely accused groups of Americans on behalf of special interest groups
- I've never crossed a national border and broke the law during a campaign season just to prove a point
- I haven't flaunted the Nevada Campaign laws by making my business promotion commercials look like political campaign ads

- I haven't blamed 80 dead men women and children for the federal government running them over with tanks, and destroying a church.
- There hasn't been over 70 of my close associates ending up dead for mysterious reasons.

These days, it seems like those with the above qualifications get elected to public office. Those of us "left behind" will never have those positions since we speak out against such things. Instead, we get called names, and old words are used against us.

You see, there is this huge white elephant that sits in our living rooms. It's not just the federal government anymore. It's whenever we see things about any government we know aren't right, but we don't dare say anything about it publicly. "To heck with free speech, free markets and freedom in general." In Nevada, we grow tired of news each day about corruption, lies, arrogance, and even sanctioned theft and murder from our "trusted government officials." We see reports each day about how our omnipotent "guardians of a free society" are somehow justified in almost every homicide they commit. Meanwhile, they are rewarded with more weaponry, more laws that take away the rights of the citizens, but exempt those who pass and enforce the laws.

We don't dare speak out about it, since we'll just get "tarred and feathered" in the media. We get called names like extremist, radical, and even anti-government; giving the impression that it's an American duty to support and praise such behavior.

We'll I'm not one of those people. My parents did teach me right from wrong, and they also taught me that "evil triumphs when good men do nothing." My two opponents must be pretty good men since, in my opinion, they haven't really stated that they would do anything.

Killing the messenger won't work. The message won't go away. People in Nevada and this country are growing tired of criminal behavior in government at all levels, and what's worse, they are tired of paying for it. We are tired of watching this country become the enemy of the world for mere profit. If we as Americans are not allowed to behave in the fashion we've seen in the last 8 years, we have the right and the duty to expect, no - demand the same from our public officials. The public faith in government is decreasing in the nation. And this candidate had nothing to do with that.

I represent those voices whose editorials end up in the trash can. I represent the sweat and blood that gets plowed into the dirt everyday in those remote areas between Las Vegas and Reno. I represent those of us facing "bogus court filings" and administrative rulings from the federal government - for following the law. I represent those whose principles somehow missed the Democratic and Republican platforms. I represent the people that never get called for a national poll.

I represent the people who are told that animals have more right than they do. I represent the people who feel they know what's best for their own children, and their own money. I represent the people who know that it takes more to defend themselves than a '911' phone call. I represent people who believe in things Greater Than Ourselves.

I represent a people who feel that Washington D.C. owning over 87% of Nevada land is just a bit too "extreme". I represent a people who feel that letting Washington D.C. control our lives is somewhat too "radical." I represent a people who feel that a government that constantly acts outside its own restraints is in fact, "anti-government".

I represent the Constitution - the foundation upon which the nation is supposed to be governed. Yet when we speak out against the crimes we witness, we are called worse than criminals for it. I represent those who tilled the land, worked the mines, raised the cattle and fight the fires. Many of us

have been all but put out of business - all due to federal government regulations.

I am running as a Libertarian candidate for the United States Senate to insure that the torch of liberty will not be extinguished in Nevada. I run so there will be a voice of opposition. I run so others may run in the future. I run on the principle that America isn't just a bunch of white buildings in Washington D.C., nor is it the politicians that sit in them. I am in this race because I believe the true America resides in the hearts and minds of each of us. These are my Core Beliefs.

I am running for this office so that no American ever has to apologize for being "American."

J.J. Johnson

Nevada Libertarian Candidate for the United States Senate